

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

*This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:*

1. (Currently amended) An instrument for high-precision or surgical applications of a minimally invasive nature, comprising:

a distally positioned directable head,

a shaft upon which the head is positioned; and

a proximal end equipped for ~~operating the~~ directing the directable head with reference to the shaft,

wherein a ring of cables comprising longitudinally extending cables connects to the directable head and to the proximal end, which cables are fixedly secured in the radial direction, and

wherein each cable of the ring of cables is disposed such that at least a part of both sides is in direct contact with another cable of the ring of cables.

2. (Currently amended) An instrument according to claim 1, wherein the ring of cables is designed for mechanically coupling the head (2) to the handgrip.

3. (Previously presented) An instrument according to claim 2, wherein the ends of at least some of the cables of the ring of cables possess a fastening to the head and to the proximal end.

4. (Previously presented) An instrument according to claim 3, wherein the fastening is embodied as an interior ring and an exterior ring, which together delimit a slot for clampingly receiving the cables.

5. (Previously presented) An instrument according to claim 1, wherein the ring of cables is enclosed by an exterior spring lying against the cables of the ring of cables.

6. (Withdrawn) An instrument according to claim 1, wherein the ring of cables is provided at its exterior side with a construction element selected from the group consisting of glass fibres, cables, power cables, power cables surrounded by glass fibres, an optionally torsion-stiff tube or tubes, optionally with lateral scoring and optionally stranded, a bellows, a stent and a spring as specified in WO 02/13682.

7. (Previously presented) An instrument according to claim 1, wherein the ring of cables is provided at its interior side with an interior spring lying against the cables of the ring of cables.

8. (Previously presented) An instrument according to claim 1, wherein the ring of cables is provided at its interior side with a construction element that is selected from the group consisting of a bundle of glass fibres, a cable, power cables, a power cable surrounded by a ring of glass fibres, an optionally torsion-stiff tube or tubes, optionally with lateral scoring and optionally stranded, bellows, a stent and a spring as specified in WO 02/13682.

9. (Previously presented) An instrument according to claim 8, wherein the construction element lies against the cables of the ring of cables.

10. (Withdrawn) An instrument according to claim 8 wherein the construction element is a cable, wherein on the head a grab jaw, scissors or clipping tongs are mounted and the cable is embodied as control cable therefor.

11. (Withdrawn) An instrument according to claim 8 wherein the construction element comprises at least one power cable, wherein a camera is mounted on the head and that the power

cable serves for the power supply of the camera and/or for transporting image data obtained with the camera.

12. (Withdrawn) An instrument according to claim 1, wherein the same is selected from the group comprising laparoscope, thoracoscope, colonoscope, gas- troscope, bronchoscope, endoscope, catheter, surgical drill, urethroscope, laryngoscope, cystoscope, guidable endoscope, guidable drill, gripping tongs, clipping tongs, scissors, co- agulation hook, and generally instruments for ear, nose and throat surgery, eye surgery, neurosurgery and brain surgery.

13. (Withdrawn) An instrument according to claim 6, wherein the construction element lies against the cables of the ring of cables.

14. (Withdrawn) An instrument according to claim 6, wherein the construction element is a cable, wherein on the head a grab jaw, scissors or clipping tongs are mounted and the cable is embodied as control cable therefor.

15. (Withdrawn) An instrument according to claim 6, wherein the construction element comprises at least one power cable, wherein a camera is mounted on the head and that the power cable serves for the power supply of the camera and/or for transporting image data obtained with the camera.